

NSC INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

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NSC-D/LOS # 661

MEMORANDUM

January 11, 1977

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TO: Members of the Executive Group

SUBJECT: Transmittal of the Proposed Programme Budget  
for the Biennium 1976-1977 Third United  
Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea  
(A/C.5/31/50)

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Attached for your information is the subject document.



William Newlin  
Staff Director

Attachment:  
As stated

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UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/C.5/31/50  
17 November 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-first session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 92 and 30

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/31/L.4

Statement by the Secretary-General pursuant to rule 153  
of the rules of procedure

1. Under the terms of the draft resolution contained in document A/31/L.4, the General Assembly would:

(a) Approve the convening in New York of the sixth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea for the period 23 May to 8 July 1977, with a possible extension to 15 July, should the Conference so decide;

(b) Authorize the Secretary-General to make available, as appropriate, the necessary facilities for private consultations between sessions among Governments and delegations;

(c) Further authorize the Secretary-General to continue to make the necessary arrangements originally provided under paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 3067 (XXVIII) for the efficient and continuous servicing of the Conference in 1977 and of subsequent activities as may be decided upon by the Conference, as well as to take appropriate measures to ensure stability and continuity for the Secretariat personnel recruited for the Conference;

(d) Recall that it noted, in paragraph 4 of resolution 3334 (XXIX), the decision of the Conference to accept the invitation of the Government of Venezuela to meet at Caracas at an appropriate date for the purpose of signing the Final Act and related instruments adopted by the Conference, and authorized the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to that end.

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2. The draft resolution results, therefore, in requirements in 1977 for the servicing of the Conference and of private consultations between sessions, and in respect of maintaining the secretariat of the Conference. The programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 does not contain provision for these 1977 requirements.

3. The Secretary-General hereunder provides the estimates of costs, and observations, regarding (1) the sixth session, (2) private consultations between sessions, (3) other effects of holding the sixth session at Headquarters, (4) the signature of the Final Act and (5) maintaining the secretariat for the Conference.

#### I. Sixth session of the Conference

4. In respect of the sixth session of the Conference, the estimates are based on the following assumptions:

(a) It is assumed that the Conference will hold 12 meetings per day, of which not more than six would be held simultaneously.

(b) Interpretation, translation and summary records will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

(c) Summary records will be provided for four meetings per day, of which not more than two would be held simultaneously.

(d) Documentation for the Conference is estimated at 200 pages of pre-session documentation, 2,000 pages of in-session documentation, 200 pages of post-session documentation and 900 pages for the printing of the proceedings of the Conference; all documents are to be issued in the six official languages of the Conference.

5. On this basis, the cost of the Conference would be as follows:

A. Conference servicing requirements	<u>for 7 weeks</u>	<u>for additional 1 week</u>
I. Pre-session		
(i) Contractual translation and typing	16,000	-
(ii) Reproduction	17,000	-
Total	<u>33,000</u>	<u>-</u>

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	<u>for 7 weeks</u>	<u>for additional 1 week</u>
II. In-session		
(i) Interpretation, translation and typing (83 interpreters, 42 translators, 21 revisers and 45 typists)		
(a) Salary	727 800	105 900
(b) Travel and subsistence	510 400	42 900
(ii) Reproduction	150 000	-
(iii) Other supporting staff (2 reference clerks, 8 assistant conference officers, 2 documents clerks, 1 conference typist-clerk, 2 printing clerks, 19 distribution clerks)	43 200	6 400
Total	<u>1 431 400</u>	<u>155 200</u>
III. Summary records (52 translators/ précis-writers, 18 revisers and 72 typists)		
(i) Salary	377 600	54 700
(ii) Travel and subsistence	293 200	20 600
(iii) Reproduction	150 000	22 000
Total	<u>820 800</u>	<u>97 300</u>
IV. Post-session		
(i) Contractual translation and typing	16 000	-
(ii) Reproduction	17 000	-
Total	<u>33 000</u>	<u>-</u>

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	<u>for 7 weeks</u>	<u>for additional 1 week</u>
V. Publication of the proceedings		
(i) Editing and proof-reading (10 editors, 1 copy preparer and 1 proof-reader - total 36 staff-months	53 000	-
(ii) External printing	225 000	-
Total	<u>278 000</u>	<u>-</u>
VI. Office of General Services		
(a) General temporary assistance (3 information clerks, 5 messengers)	11 400	1 600
(b) Overtime	40 800	5 800
(c) Elevator operation	3 600	600
(d) Communications	5 200	800
(e) Telecommunications engineering	20 500	3 000
(f) Miscellaneous supplies	3 200	400
Total	<u>84 700</u>	<u>12 200</u>
VII. Office of Public Information		
(a) Press and publications (1 desk editor, 1 reporter, 1 secretary)	7 600	1 100
(b) Radio and Visual Services (1 radio commentator, 1 cameraman)	4 900	700
(c) Communications engineering	14 000	2 400
Total	<u>26 500</u>	<u>4 200</u>
Total for conference servicing requirements	<u>2 707 400</u>	<u>268 900</u>

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	<u>for 7 weeks</u>	<u>for additional 1 week</u>
B. Other requirements		
I. Law of the Sea secretariat		
(a) General temporary assistance (11 secretaries)	14,600	2,100
(b) Overtime	3,400	500
(c) Rental of equipment	4,000	-
(d) Communications	800	-
(e) Hospitality	6,000	-
Total	<u>28,800</u>	<u>2,600</u>
II. Travel and subsistence of representatives of liberation movements (General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX))	<u>34,000</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Total for other requirements	<u>62,800</u>	<u>5,100</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>2,770,200</u>	<u>274,000</u>

II. Intersessional private consultations

6. Although it is not possible to precisely predict the magnitude of private consultations between sessions referred to in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, at least three meetings appear likely for which financial arrangements would be provided under the draft resolution.

(a) Two meetings in Geneva, one in February and the other in March.

Assumptions: 3 weeks' duration, 2 meetings per day;  
interpretation in 6 languages (A, C, E, F, R, S);  
no documentation required.

The cost for one meeting would be:

(i) 18 interpreters	57,500
1 secretary	1,200
Subtotal	<u>58,700</u>

(ii) Other staff	
2 meeting-room attendants)	
2 sound technicians )	4,600
2 cleaners )	
Total	<u>63,300</u>

Combined cost for two meetings	<u>126,600</u>
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(b) One meeting in New York in May.

Assumptions: 2 weeks' duration, two meetings per day;  
interpretation in 4 languages (A, E, F, S);  
no documentation required

The costs are estimated as follows:

(i) 13 interpreters	27,000	
(ii) Overtime	2,600	
Total	<u>29,600</u>	<u>29,600</u>

Therefore, the total costs for private consultations are estimated at \$156,200.

### III. Other effects of holding the Conference at Headquarters

7. In addition to the above, owing to the convening of the sixth session of the Conference at New York from 23 May to 8 July 1977, it will become necessary, because of conference room limitations, to transfer from New York to Geneva the meeting of UNICEF (23 May to 3 June) and the meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources (9 to 20 May). The total direct cost of servicing these two bodies at Geneva is estimated at \$248,000 on a full-cost basis, comprising \$153,300 for UNICEF and \$94,700 for the Committee on Natural Resources; the resources released at Headquarters are estimated at \$210,300 on a full-cost basis, comprising \$125,400 for UNICEF and \$84,900 for the Committee on Natural Resources.

8. In this connexion, additional requirements arise in respect of the travel and subsistence of the substantive staff at Headquarters who will have to go to Geneva for these meetings. The number of staff involved for each is 39 for UNICEF (30 Professional and 9 General Service) and 9 for the Committee on Natural Resources (8 Professionals and 1 General Service staff). The presence of UNICEF staff in Geneva is required not only to assist the Executive Board meeting and two other committees of UNICEF (Programme Committee and Committee on Administration and Finance) but also to conduct internal meetings between programme officers and

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regional directors who will also travel to Geneva. The related costs are estimated at \$87,600, comprising \$71,800 for UNICEF and \$15,800 for the Committee on Natural Resources.

9. Therefore, additional costs attributable to the change in the venue of the meetings of UNICEF and of the Committee on Natural Resources are estimated at \$125,300, comprising \$37,700 in conference servicing costs and \$87,600 in respect of travel and subsistence of staff.

#### IV. Signature of the Final Act

10. The Secretary-General assumes that, in the event that the Assembly adopts operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, under which he will be authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the Conference in pursuance of its acceptance of the invitation of the Government of Venezuela to meet at Caracas at an appropriate date, the Government of Venezuela would, in accordance with Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV), defray the additional costs involved. The Secretary-General notes that no dates are specified in the draft resolution for holding such a session.

11. In the event that the signing of the Final Act and related instruments were to take place in 1977, the Secretary-General would seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to enter into commitments under the terms of the General Assembly resolution providing for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

#### V. Secretariat of the Conference

12. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ensure stability and continuity for the Secretariat personnel recruited for the Conference. In his view, this paragraph of the draft resolution recognizes the need to provide a minimum degree of continuity for the Conference secretariat, who are expected not only to contribute to the ultimate success of the Conference but to play a central role in the implementation of the Final Act when adopted. Should the Conference at its sixth session reach such a stage as to agree on the Final Act, it might well be over a year from then before any new entity which might result from a final agreement started to operate. In the meantime, the secretariat of the Conference would be continuously called upon to provide its services to cover the interim period. In the light of these considerations, it is felt that the objective of this paragraph of the draft resolution would be met, at least to some extent, if the secretariat of the Conference were budgeted for a period of two years rather than one year as has been the case. If this view is shared by the General Assembly, and bearing in mind that this statement of financial implications refers only to the resources required to maintain the secretariat in 1977, the necessary provision for 1978 will be included in the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, which will be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

13. In respect of the maintenance of the secretariat of the Conference in 1977, the estimated cost is \$1,041,700. The resources requested for this purpose include provision for the following:

(a) Salaries (\$637,200) and common staff costs (\$199,600) to maintain the present establishment, consisting of 1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 3 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 6 P-2/1, 2 G-5 and 10 G-4/1.

(b) The work of the secretariat for the Conference has continued to evolve and it is now clear that in 1977 a higher level of assistance will be required in certain respects. Owing to the kind of expertise and judgement called for in providing advice to officers of the different bodies of the Conference and to delegations of Member States, there is a need for more middle-level and fewer junior Professional posts, although no increase in the total number of posts is presently envisaged. It is therefore requested that instead of the present proportion of two P-3 and six P-2/1 posts, the establishment be set at four P-3 and four P-2/1 posts. This measure would also assist in enabling the Secretary-General to meet the expressed wish of the Conference to ensure the stability and continuity of the staff. An amount of \$7,500 is requested for this purpose representing 75 per cent of the full annual cost. It is also proposed that a G-4 post in the Administrative Unit of the Conference be reclassified to the G-5 level. As the scope and variety of the Conference activities increase in complexity, the administrative side of the Conference secretariat needs to be strengthened and the position of Administrative Assistant, who often has to deal with such complexities on behalf of the Administrative Officer, becomes more responsible. The amount requested for this reclassification is \$3,200, representing 75 per cent of the full annual cost as well.

(c) An amount of \$50,000 is requested for an estimated 15 work-months of consultant service, to meet such requests as may arise, in areas of special expertise that cannot be drawn from the Conference secretariat or other parts of the United Nations Secretariat. This request represents an increase of \$10,800. It is not possible at this point to determine when the final stages of the work of the Conference will be reached or what the nature of the demands on the Secretariat will be when they are reached, but they will probably require temporary assistance by high-level consultants with very specialized knowledge.

(d) An amount of \$35,000 is requested for travel of staff to attend intersessional meetings, informal consultations and other meetings of direct concern, including those of other bodies within the United Nations system. It should be noted, in this respect, that there are many activities in other parts of the United Nations system which are related to the work of the Conference. It is necessary to ensure that adequate contact is maintained with regard to the interrelation of these activities with the work of the Conference. The number of meetings of concern to the Conference secretariat is expected to increase still further during 1977.

(e) Included under general operating expenses, for which \$109,200 are requested, are rental and maintenance of premises (\$78,600), rental and maintenance of equipment (\$9,600), communications (\$9,500) and miscellaneous services (\$1,100). Furthermore, provision is also made for supplies (\$4,500), library books (\$3,200), miscellaneous printing (\$1,500) and furniture (\$1,200).

VI. Summary

14. The summary of the requirements, as described above, amounts to \$4,093,400, as follows:

	<u>Direct conference servicing costs</u> (000)	<u>Other costs</u> (000)
I. Servicing the sixth session (estimate for seven weeks)	2,371.2	399.0 <sup>a/</sup>
II. Intersessional private consultations	156.2	
III. Servicing displaced meetings	37.7	87.6
IV. Secretariat of the Conference		1,041.7
	<u>2,565.1</u>	<u>1,528.3</u>

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<u>a/</u> Comprising:	External printing	225,000
	Office of General Services	84,700
	Office of Public Information	26,500
	Conference secretariat	28,800
	Travel and subsistence of representatives of liberation movements	34,000

15. Pending the adoption of the 1976-1977 calendar of conferences by the General Assembly, it is not possible at this stage to determine to what extent the cost of conference servicing staff can be absorbed from within resources already allocated to the Department of Conference Services. These costs will be included in a consolidated statement to be prepared towards the close of the current session of the General Assembly, in which the estimated conference costs of all of the substantive decisions taken during the year will be recapitulated and an indication made as to how much can be absorbed from within resources and how much is required in net additional appropriations to service the revised level of meetings in 1977. In the case of the Conference on the Law of the Sea, the estimates will also take into account the actual level of servicing which was required at the fourth and fifth sessions.

16. Accordingly an appropriation is requested at this time to cover only the balance of the requirements listed above, in a total amount of \$1,528,300. The breakdown of the above under sections would be as follows:

Section 2	Sixth session of the Third Conference . . . . .	399,000
	Maintenance of the Conference secretariat . . . . .	1,041,700
Section 4	Travel of staff to meetings . . . . .	87,600
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	Total . . . . .	1,528,300
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Financial assessment of non-member States participating  
in the Conference

17. The General Assembly, at its 2169th plenary meeting, on 16 November 1973, in relation to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3067 (XXVIII), decided, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee (document A/9319, para. 16), that:

"the States non-members of the United Nations to be invited to participate in the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea should be invited to give consideration to contributing to the expenses of the Conference on the basis of the rates determined for this purpose by the General Assembly".

18. Subsequent to that decision, the General Assembly adopted, by resolution 3371 B (XXX) of 30 October 1975, an amendment to regulation 5.9 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations.

Regulation 5.9, as amended, reads as follows:

"States which are not Members of the United Nations but which participate in organs or conferences financed from United Nations appropriations shall contribute to the expenses of such organs or conferences at rates to be determined by the General Assembly unless the Assembly decides with respect to any such State to exempt it from the requirement of so contributing".

19. In the above connexion, the Secretary-General would welcome the views of the General Assembly as to whether, for the purpose of assessing States non-members of the United Nations participating in the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the earlier decision of the General Assembly is superseded by Assembly resolution 3371 B (XXX) of 30 October 1975 for sessions of the Conference held subsequent to 30 October 1975.

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